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ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Tony Wood, Commissioner

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215 Public Schools Qualify for Reward Funds

Based on results from the 2014 school year, as authorized through the Arkansas School Recognition and Reward Program, 215 public schools are recognized as high performing schools. This is a 4.87 percent increase compared to last year's results. The program recognizes the top 20 percent of schools based on academic achievement, academic growth and graduation rates.

A total of 109 public schools were identified as top 10 percent schools, while 106 public schools were identified as being in the top 11 to 20 percent. Both the Mount Pleasant Elementary School in the Melbourne School District and Haas Hall Academy, a public charter school in Fayetteville, achieved a high score of 99 in Overall Recognition.

Thirteen of the 18 public schools in the Bentonville School District are identified as being in the top 20 percent of schools, with 10 of the schools ranking in the top 10 percent. The 13 Bentonville schools will receive a total of \$689,388.75.

A total of \$7 million from the governor's allocation of the General Improvement Fund has again been designated for the program this school year.

Schools in the top 10 percent this year are eligible to receive \$90 per student. Schools in the top 11 to 20 percent are eligible to receive \$45.10 per student. Schools receiving recognition funds must establish a committee to determine the best use of the funds. The committee includes the principal, a teacher elected by the faculty, and a parent representative selected by the local Parent Teacher Association or another parental involvement group.

Schools can use the funds for faculty and staff bonuses, educational equipment and materials, or personnel to assist with improving or maintaining student performance.

For a complete list of schools and award amounts, go to <http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/public-school-accountability/school-performance/reward-schools>.

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